

CLAIMS

Therefore, the following is claimed:

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- 1 1. A system which controls power in a communication system, comprising:
- 2 a detector, said detector configured to detect a communication signal associated
- 3 with a transmitter unit in a communication device, said detector configured to generate a
- 4 control signal in response to the detection of said communication signal; and
- 5 a transmitter power manager coupled to said detector and configured to receive
- 6 said control signal, said transmitter power manager coupled to at least one element
- 7 residing in said communication device,
- 8 such that when said detector detects said communication signal and generates said control
- 9 signal, said transmitter power manager provides power to said at least one element in
- 10 response to said control signal.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one element resides in a
- 2 transmitter.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one element resides in a
- 2 transmitter signal generating circuit.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a switchable device residing in
- 2 said transmitter power manager, said switchable device responsive to said control signal,
- 3 and such that said switchable device couples said at least one element to a power supply
- 4 in response to the detection of said communication signal.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein said switchable device is a transistor, said
2 transistor coupled to said detector such that said control signal actuates said transistor
3 into a conducting state so that said at least one element is coupled to said power supply.

1 6. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2 a first switchable device residing in said transmitter power manager, said first
3 switchable device coupled to at least one first element residing in said transmitter unit;
4 and

5 a second switchable device residing in said transmitter power manager, said
6 second switchable device coupled to at least one second element residing in said
7 transmitter unit,

8 such that said first switchable device is responsive to said control signal such that said
9 first switchable device couples said at least one first element to a power supply in
10 response to the detection of said communication signal, and such that said second
11 switchable device is responsive to said control signal such that said second switchable
12 device couples said at least one second element to said power supply in response to the
13 detection of said communication signal.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein said second switchable device couples
2 said at least one second element to said power supply after a predefined delay time.

1 8. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2 a plurality of detectors, each one of said plurality of detectors configured to detect
3 one of a plurality of communication signals, each one of said plurality of communication
4 signals being uniquely associated with one of a plurality of transmitter units residing in
5 said communication device, and each one of said plurality of detectors configured to
6 generate a control signal in response to the detection of said communication signal; and

7 a plurality of transmitter power managers, each one of said plurality of transmitter
8 power managers coupled to the corresponding one of said plurality of detectors and
9 configured to receive said control signal from said detector, and each one of said plurality
10 of transmitter power managers coupled to at least one element residing in the
11 corresponding one of said plurality of transmitter units,

12 such that when one of said detectors detect said corresponding communication signal and
13 generates said control signal, said corresponding transmitter power manager provides
14 power to said at least one element in response to the detection of said communication
15 signal.

1 9. The system of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of switchable
2 devices, at least one switchable device residing in each one of said plurality of transmitter
3 power managers, each one of said plurality of switchable devices responsive to said
4 control signal associated with said transmitter power manager in which said at least one
5 switchable device resides, such that said at least one element is coupled to a power supply
6 in response to the detection of said associated communication signal.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein at least one of said plurality of switchable
2 devices is a transistor, said transistor coupled to one of said plurality of detectors such
3 that said control signal actuates said transistor into a conducting state so that said at least
4 one element is coupled to said power supply.

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1 11. A method for controlling power in a communication system, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 detecting a communication signal, said communication signal being associated
4 with a transmitter unit;

5 generating a control signal in response to detecting the presence of said
6 communication signal;

7 providing said control signal to a transmitter power manager; and

8 actuating said transmitter power manager in response to said control signal such
9 that power is provided to at least one element residing in said transmitter unit.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of actuating said transmitter
2 power manager such that power is provided to said at least one element further comprises
3 the step of coupling said at least one element to a power supply with a switchable device.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said switchable device is a transistor and
2 wherein said step of coupling actuates said transistor into a conducting state so that said
3 at least one element is coupled to said power supply.

1 14. The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
2 generating a second control signal in response to the absence of said
3 communication signal;
4 providing said second control signal to said transmitter power manager; and
5 actuating said transmitter power manager in response to said second control signal
6 such that power is removed from said at least one element residing in said transmitter
7 unit.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said step of actuating said transmitter
2 power manager in response to said second control signal further comprises the step of
3 uncoupling said at least one element from a power supply with a switchable device.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said switchable device is a transistor and
2 wherein said step of uncoupling actuates said transistor into a non-conducting state so
3 that said at least one element is uncoupled from said power supply.

1 17. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of actuating said transmitter
2 power manager in response to said control signal further includes the step of providing
3 power to at least one element residing in a transmitter.

1 18. The method of claim 11, wherein said step of actuating said transmitter
2 power manager in response to said control signal further includes the step of providing
3 power to at least one element residing in a transmitter signal generating circuit.

1 19. A method for controlling power in a communication system, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 detecting presence of a plurality of communication signals, each one of said
4 plurality of communication signals being uniquely associated with one of a plurality of
5 transmitter units;

6 generating a plurality of control signals in response to detecting the presence of
7 said plurality of communication signals, each one of said plurality of control signals
8 being associated with one of said detected communication signals;

9 providing each one of said control signals to one of a plurality of transmitter
10 power managers, each one of said transmitter power managers being uniquely associated
11 with one of said transmitter units; and

12 actuating each one of said transmitter power managers in response to the
13 associated control signal being provided to the respective transmitter power managers,
14 wherein the transmitter power managers are actuated to enable power to be provided to at
15 least one element residing in each of the respective transmitter units.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of actuating each one
2 of said transmitter power managers so that power is removed from said at least one
3 element when said respective communication signal is absent.

1 21. A method for controlling power in a communication system, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 coupling a plurality of detectors to a communication system;

4 coupling one of a plurality of transmitter power managers to each one of said
5 plurality of detectors;

6 coupling each one of said plurality of transmitter power managers uniquely to one
7 of a plurality of transmitter units;

8 detecting one of a plurality of communication signals, said communication signal
9 being uniquely associated with each one of said plurality of transmitter units; and

10 generating a control signal in response to the step of detecting said
11 communication signal and providing said control signal to the respective one of said
12 plurality of transmitter power managers such that at least one element residing in said
13 respective transmitter unit is provided power.

1 22. A system for controlling power in a communication system, comprising:

2 means for detecting a communication signal, said communication signal being
3 associated with a transmitter unit;

4 means for generating a control signal in response to detecting the presence of said
5 communication signal;

6 means for providing said control signal to a transmitter power manager; and

7 means for actuating said transmitter power manager in response to said control
8 signal such that power is provided to at least one element residing in said transmitter unit.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein said means for actuating said transmitter
2 power manager such that power is provided to said at least one element further comprises
3 means for coupling said at least one element to a power supply with a switchable device.

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1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein said switchable device is a transistor and
2 wherein said means for coupling actuates said transistor into a conducting state so that
3 said at least one element is coupled to said power supply.

1 25. The system of claim 22, further comprising:
2 means for generating a second control signal in response to the absence of said
3 communication signal;
4 means for providing said second control signal to said transmitter power manager;
5 and
6 means for actuating said transmitter power manager in response to said second
7 control signal such that power is removed from said at least one element residing in said
8 transmitter unit.

1 26. The system of claim 25 wherein said means for actuating said transmitter
2 power manager in response to said second control signal further comprises means for
3 uncoupling said at least one element from a power supply with a switchable device.

1 27. The system of claim 26, wherein said switchable device is a transistor and
2 wherein said means for uncoupling actuates said transistor into a non-conducting state so
3 that said at least one element is uncoupled from said power supply.

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1 28. The system of claim 22, wherein said means for actuating said transmitter
2 power manager in response to said control signal further includes means for providing
3 power to at least one element residing in a transmitter.

1 29. The system of claim 22, wherein said means for actuating said transmitter
2 power manager in response to said control signal further includes means for providing
3 power to at least one element residing in a transmitter signal generating circuit.

1 30. A system which controls power to selected elements, comprising:
2 a communication signal transmitter system, said communication signal transmitter
3 system further comprising:
4 at least one transmitter unit;
5 at least one detector configured to detect a communication signal associated with
6 said at least one transmitter unit, said detector further configured to generate a control
7 signal in response to the detection of said communication signal; and
8 at least one transmitter power manager transmitter power manager uniquely
9 coupled to said at least one detector and configured to receive said control signal, said
10 transmitter power manager coupled to at least one element residing in said at least one
11 transmitter unit,
12 such that when said detector detects said communication signal and generates said control
13 signal, said transmitter power manager provides power to said at least one element in
14 response to said control signal.